

Third Grade Summer Reading Booklist

Required Readings: Choose at least one.

Mystery

Easy:

Young Cam Jansen and the Missing Cookie by David Adler

In this Easy-to-Read story about Cam Jansen, Cam again uses her photographic memory to solve a mystery in daily life. It's a scenario many kids will recognize.

Average:

A-Z Mysteries: Absent Author by Ron Roy

Dink and his friends investigate a variety of mysterious occurrences in their hometown. This intriguing mystery series for young readers is a great introduction to the mystery genre.

Challenging:

Boxcar Children, #1 by Gertrude Chandler Warner

Four orphans, two boys and two girls, set up housekeeping in an old boxcar. In this series, the Alden children investigate a series of baffling mysteries that lead them into some intriguing situations.

Student Choice: Choose at least two.

Fantasy

Easy:

Flat Stanley (series includes **Flat Stanley**, **Invisible Stanley**, **Stanley**, **Flat Again**; and others) by Jeff Brown

Stanley is a perfectly normal boy until one day he wakes up flat and learns that he can do things others can't because of his unusual shape.

Magic Tree House (series includes: **Afternoon on the Amazon**; **Buffalo before breakfast**; **Civil War on Sunday**; and many others) by Mary Pope Osborne

This series is an interesting mix of fiction & nonfiction. Each book takes the characters (siblings Jack & Annie) to another place and/or time to get a clue to solve a mystery or challenge.

Average:

Fairy Realm (series includes: **The Charm Bracelet**; **The Flower Fairies**; and others) by Emily Rodda
Jessie is an ordinary girl whose seemingly ordinary grandmother is actually a fairy queen. When Jessie finds the invisible door to the Fairy Realm, she enters a magical world full of elves, fairies, gnomes, miniature horses, mermaids, storytelling furrybears, fearsome griffins and unicorns.

Dragonling by Jackie French Koller

Darek is filled with envy when his older brother returns from his dragonquest with the claws of a Great Blue, the largest and fiercest of all dragons. Then Darek discovers a dragonling in the pouch of its dead mother. There's only one thing to do: he must get Zantor, a hungry little dragon with wobbly legs, back to his own kind.

Challenging:

Spiderwick Chronicles (series includes: **The Field Guide**; **The Ironwood Tree**; **Lucinda's Secret**; and others) by Tony DiTerlizzi

When the Grace children go to live at their Great Aunt Lucinda's worn Victorian house, they discover a field guide to fairies and other creatures and begin to have some very unusual experiences

Historical Fiction:

Easy:

American Girl (series includes **Meet Molly**, **An American Girl**; **Meet Felicity**, **An American Girl** and others)

Young readers can compare the lives of Addy, Felicity, Josefina, Kaya, Kirsten, Kit, Molly, and Samantha share their dreams and the dilemmas of growing up. The heroines were strong and independent girls and some things in their lives were very different from today. But others--like families, friendships, and feelings--haven't changed at all. These are the traditions that the American Girls share.

Sleds on Boston Common by Louise Borden

Henry complains to the royal governor, General Gage, after his plan to sled down the steep hill at Boston Common is thwarted by the masses of British troops camped there.

Katie's Trunk by Ann Turner

Katie, whose family is not sympathetic to the rebel soldiers during the American Revolution, hides under the clothes in her mother's wedding trunk when they invade her home.

Average:

When Mr. Jefferson Came to Philadelphia by Ann Turner

In Philadelphia in 1776, Ned meets Thomas Jefferson, who is staying in his mother's inn while debating the topic of freedom in Congress and writing the Declaration of Independence.

On the Mayflower: Voyage of a Ship's Apprentice and a Passenger Girl by Kate Waters

A twelve-year-old apprentice and a seven-year-old passenger experience the first voyage of the Mayflower.

Challenging:

Our Strange New Land, Elizabeth's Jamestown Colony Diary, Book One by Patricia Hermes

Written in journal format, the story focus on young Elizabeth and the daily life of people who lived in Jamestown in 1609. Also, the characters in this series live on in future books.

Journey to the New World: Diary of Patience Whipple by Kathryn Lasky

"Mayflower, 1620"--Cover. Twelve-year-old Mem presents a diary account of the trip she and her family made on the Mayflower in 1620 and their first year in the New World.

The Journal of Jasper Jonathan Pierce: Pilgrim Boy by Ann Rinaldi

"Plymouth, 1620"--Cover. A fourteen-year-old indentured servant keeps a journal of his experiences on the Mayflower and during the building of Plymouth Plantation in 1620 and 1621.

Mystery

Easy:

Jigsaw Jones (series includes **The Case of the Stinky Science Project; The Case of the Christmas Snowman** and others) by James Preller

Puzzle-crazy Jigsaw Jones searches for clues and pieces them together to solve the mystery. Line-art brings additional humor and warmth to these chapter-books.

Nate the Great (series includes **Nate the Great and the Monster Mess; Nate the Great and the Boring Beach Bag** and others) by Margerie Sharmat

After a generous breakfast of pancakes, Nate, the boy detective, plunges into each new and baffling case, solves the mystery, and tracks down the culprits.

Average:

Cam Jansen Adventure (series includes **Cam Jansen and the Catnapping Mystery; Cam Jansen and the First day of School Mystery** and others) by David Adler

Fifth grader Cam Jansen uses her phenomenal photographic memory to solve mysteries. Stories are in "Beginning Chapter-Book" format.

Ghost of Popcorn Hill by Betty Ren Wright

Martin and Peter acquire a mischievous new dog and two lonely ghosts.

Challenging:

Herculeah Jones (series includes **Dead Letter; Death's Door; Disappearing Acts** and others) by Betsy Byars

The intrepid Herculeah Jones helps her mother, a private investigator, solve puzzling and frightening cases.

Realistic Fiction

Easy:

A is for Amber Easy Readers (series includes **Get Ready for Second Grade, Amber Brown; What a Trip, Amber Brown** and others) by Paul Danziger

These books portray very real situations, fears, and apprehensions that new readers encounter with lots of spunk and spirit from Amber, the main character.

Average:

Judy Moody (series includes **Judy Moody**; **Judy Moody gets famous**; **Judy Moody predicts the future** and others) by Megan McDonald
Entertaining stories portray challenges and pleasures from a kid's perspective and believable episodes from third grade

I was a Third Grade Science Project (plus sequels **I was a Third Grade Spy** and **I was a Third Grade Bodyguard**) by Mary Jane Auch
A science project gone wrong provides the backdrop for these 3 books as Arful the dog can talk like a human but think like a dog.

The Hundred Dresses by Eleanor Estes
Wanda faces mockery at school both because of her funny last name and her claim that she has 100 dresses even though she wears the same one to school each day.

Challenging:

Sports books by Matt Christopher (ex. **Baseball Turnaround**; **Center Court Sting**; **Cool as Ice**)
Mr. Christopher has written numerous books about any sport that would interest a child

Anastasia Krupnik by Lois Lowry
These stories present the emotional ups and downs and adventures of a young girl, her family, and friends.

All About Sam by Lois Lowry
The adventures of Sam, Anastasia Krupnik's younger brother, from his first day as a newborn through his mischievous times as a toddler

Biography

Easy:

Rookie Biographies by various authors. Published by Children's Press
Simple, clear biographies about famous people both contemporary and historical.

Average / Challenging:

Picture Book Biographies by David Adler
Biographies of famous people from history.

Poetry

Easy:

Every Time I Climb a Tree by David McCord

Dog Days: Rhymes Around the Year by Jack Prelutsky

Average:

Works by Myra Cohn Livingston: **Celebrations**, **Christmas Poems**, **Festivals**, **Flights of Fancy and other Poems**, **If You Ever Meet a Whale: Poems**, **Keep on Singing: a Ballad of Marion Anderson**, **Lots of Limericks**

Books by Jack Prelutsky: **The Dragons are Singing Tonight**, **The Frogs Wore Red Suspenders**, **If Not for the Cat: Haiku**, **The New Kid on the Block: Poems**, **Pizza the Size of the Sun**, **Scranimals**.

Challenging:

A Child's Calendar by John Updike

Falling up by Shel Silverstein

Light in the Attic by Shel Silverstein

Where the Sidewalk Ends by Shel Silverstein

Informational

Easy:

Books by Gail Gibbons – Includes: **Apples, Bats, Cats, Deadline: From News to Newspaper, Dogs, Ducks, Fill it up: all about service stations, Fire! Fire!, Grizzly bears, How a House is built, Knights in shining armor, Marshes & swamps, My Baseball book**, and many others

Average:

Books by Greg Tang – **The Best of Times, The Grapes of Math, Math Appeal, Math-terpieces**

Books by Jerry Pallotta – **The Hershey's Milk Chocolate Bar Fractions Book, The Hershey's Milk Chocolate Multiplication Book, Hershey's Milk Chocolate Weights and Measures, Twizzlers Shapes and Patterns**

Challenging:

Books by Franklyn M. Branley - This author writes about various science topics.

Recommended Authors:

David Adler, Beverly Cleary, Joanne Cole, Barbara Cooney, Paula Danziger, Jean Fritz, Robert McCloskey, Patricia McKissack, John Peterson, Jerry & Brian Pinkney, Patricia Polacco, Allen Say, Jon Scieszka, Marjorie Weinman Sharmat, Chris Van Allsburg, Gertrude Chandler Warner.